

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 027804
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 L-03 SNM-05 SS-15 SP-02
INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 /054 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:GCNELSON
APPROVED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN/SVALERGA
L/OES - MEHOINKES (SUBS)
ARA/PAN - DWAGNER (SUBS)
OES/OFA:JNEGROPONTE (SUBS)
JUSTICE: DMILLER (SUBS)
NSC: RPASTER(SUBS)
USCG: CAPT.HOBDY(SUBS)

-----003208 021110Z /16

O 021044Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
COMDT COGARD WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CUSTOMS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 027804

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SNAR, PN

SUBJECT:M/V PHGH

REF: A. COMDT COGARD 311915Z JAN. 78 B. PANAMA 0691

1. SITUATION: AS PER REFTEL A. AS OF THIS MORNING VESSEL
WAS APPROXIMATELY 250 MILES FROM MOBILE, ALABAMA. ABOUT
THAT TIME IT CHANGED COURSE TO A WESTERLY DIRECTION. VESSEL
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HAD EARLIER INDICATED THAT IT WAS ENROUTE MOBILE FROM
ARUBA WITH A LOAD OF SULFITE. VESSEL IS SUSPECT AS IT WAS
SIGHTED BY DEA ANCHORED 1.5 MILES OFF COLOMBIAN COAST A-
BOUT 12 MILES NORTHEAST OF PIO HACHA ON JAN. 25,1978.

-- ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF REFTEL B DEPARTMENT

REQUESTS THAT POST APPROACH THE GOP AND REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR THE USG TO STOP, BOARD, AND SEARCH THE PHGH. IF CONTRABAND IS FOUND AND EVIDENCE INDICATES A VIOLATION OF US LAW, REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN PANAMANIAN WAIVER OF ITS JURISDICTION OVER THE PHGH AND PANAMANIAN AUTHORIZATION TO SEIZE THE PHGH AND TO RETURN IT TO A US PORT FOR PROSECUTION UNDER US LAW. IF CONTRABAND IS FOUND BUT EVIDENCE DOES NOT SUPPORT A VIOLATION OF US LAW THEN THE USG INTENDS TO RELEASE THE SHIP AND TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION.

IF THE AMBASSADOR FEELS THAT THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT COURSE TO FOLLOW HE SHOULD REPORT BACK OR SHOULD EXPLORE WITH COL. NORIEGA WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PANAMA RATHER THAN PRESENT AS A FIRM DEMARCHE'.

3. FYI: IF REPEAT IF CONTRABAND IS FOUND AND US CAN NOT FIND GROUNDS FOR MAKING A CASE UNDER US LAW WE MAY ASK EMBASSY TO REQUEST PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT TO DESTROY NARCOTICS AT SEA. THIS POINT NEED NOT BE RAISED AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

4. SINCE THE USG IS PREPARED TO PROSECUTE UNDER US LAW IF CONTRAVENTION OF US LAW IS FOUND AND IT WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE THROW THE CASE BACK INTO GOP'S LAP BY A REQUEST THAT PANAMANIAN SEEK EXTRADITION OR PROSECUTE UNDER PANAMANIAN LAW, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES EMBASSY'S RESERVATIONS TO PROCEEDING IN THIS CASE
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HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED.

5. PLS CONFIRM ALL AUTHORIZATIONS FROM THE GOP BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PHGH M/V, SHIP MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE027804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GCNELSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780049-1225
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802112/aaaafnbw.tel
Line Count: 203
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 774e9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3457788
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970825
Subject: M/V PHGH
TAGS: SNAR, PN, US
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/774e9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014